

I. Hirao, et al
U.S.S.N. 09/787,196
Page 2

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a selective base pair, the method comprising the step of contacting (i) a nucleic acid having, as a base, 2-aminopurine, which is substituted at position-6 by ~~a group capable of hindering base-pairing between said 2-aminopurine and thymidine; uridine or cytosine, a di(lower alkyl)amino group or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic group having 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, and~~ (ii) with a nucleic acid having 2-oxo or 2-hydroxy pyridine as a base.

2-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 6 or claim 7~~ claim 1 wherein ~~five membered aromatic heterocyclic group is thiophene or the di(lower alkyl)amino group is dimethylamino.~~

9-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 1-8~~ claim 1 or claim 8 wherein the base pair is a base pair which can be recognized by a polymerase.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the polymerase is DNA polymerase or RNA polymerase.

13-40 (Cancelled).